

REMARKS

A telephone conversation was held on November 24, 2003 between Examiner Fletcher and Dennis Smid and Mayush Singhvi. Messrs. Smid and Singhvi wish to thank the Examiner for his time and consideration.

In light of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 and amended claims 1, 8, and 9 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Holroyd et al. (5,781,435).

Independent claim 1 recites in part as follows:

“...time-divisional controlling means for controlling said input processing means and the output processing means to time-divisionally access said recording and/or reproducing means respectively to input and output data...”

It is respectfully submitted that Holroyd as applied by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely “Holroyd”) does not appear to disclose time-divisional controlling means as in amended claim 1.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claims 8 and 9 are believed to be distinguishable from Holroyd.

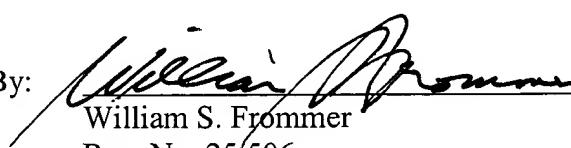
Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from Holroyd for at least the reasons previously described.

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference, there is the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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